IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An alkali-soluble silicon-containing polymer which is represented by [[the]] general formula (1) below and has a weight-average molecular weight in the range from 500 to 500,000:

$$[A^1-(R^1)_m-Si-O_{3/2}]_s[R^2-\underset{\displaystyle R^2}{\overset{\displaystyle R^2}{Si}}-O_{1/2}]_t[Si-O_{4/2}]_u \qquad (1)$$

~~(In the formula~~, wherein A^1 is a phenyl group having ~~either~~ a hydroxyl group and/or an alkoxy group; R^1 is an alkylene group of 1-4 carbons; m is ~~0 or~~ 1; R^2 is an alkyl group of 1-4 carbons; ~~(~~R^2 in one molecule is optionally [[may be]] the same type or a combination of two or more different types[[.)]]; each of s and u is a positive number; t is 0 or a positive number; and $0 \leq t/(s+u) \leq 1$; and $0 < u/s \leq 5$[[)]].

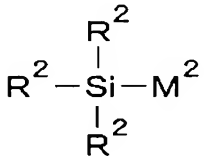
Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The alkali-soluble silicon-containing polymer according to Claim 1, wherein $0 \leq t/(s+u) \leq 0.2$ and $0.2 < u/s \leq 5$ ~~are in the general formula (1)~~ and said polymer is solid at room temperature.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method for manufacturing the alkali-soluble silicon-containing polymer ~~represented by the general formula (1) above, being characterized in~~ according to Claim 1, comprising performing hydrolytic co-condensation of s moles of an organosilane having a hydrolysable group represented by [[the]] general formula (2) below, t moles of an organosilane having a hydrolysable group represented by [[the]] general formula (3) below, and u moles of a silicon compound having a hydrolysable group represented by

[[the]] general formula (4) below, ~~(~~wherein s and u are positive numbers; t is 0 or a positive number; $0 \leq t/(s+u) \leq 1$; and $0 < u/s \leq 5$,[[).]]

$$A^1(R^1)_mSiM^1{}_3 \qquad (2)$$

~~(In the formula~~, wherein A^1 is a phenyl group having either a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group; R^1 is an alkylene group of 1-4 carbons; M^1 is a hydrolysable group; and m is ~~0 or~~ 1,[[.)]]



(3)

~~(In the formula~~, wherein R^2 is an alkyl group of 1-4 carbons; and M^2 is a hydrolysable group,[[.)]]

$$SiM^3{}_4 \qquad (4)$$

~~(In the formula~~, wherein M^3 is a hydrolysable group.[[)]]

Claims 4-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (New): The alkali-soluble silicon-containing polymer according to Claim 1, wherein A^1 is a phenyl group having an alkoxy group.

Claim 9 (New): The alkali-soluble silicon-containing polymer according to Claim 1, wherein A^1 is selected from the group consisting of o-hydroxyphenyl group, m-hydroxyphenyl group, p-hydroxyphenyl group, 2,3-dihydroxyphenyl group, 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group, 3,4-dihydroxyphenyl group, 3,5-dihydroxyphenyl group, o-methoxyphenyl group, m-methoxyphenyl group, p-methoxyphenyl group, 2,3-dimethoxyphenyl group, 2,4-dimethoxyphenyl group, 3,4-dimethoxyphenyl group, 3,5-

dimethoxyphenyl group, o-ethoxyphenyl group, m-ethoxyphenyl group, p-ethoxyphenyl group, 2,3-diethoxyphenyl group, 2,4-diethoxyphenyl group, 3,4-diethoxyphenyl group, 3,5-diethoxyphenyl group, o-isopropoxyphenyl group, m-isopropoxyphenyl group, p-isopropoxyphenyl group, 2,3-di-isopropoxyphenyl group, 2,4-di-isopropoxyphenyl group, 3,4-di-isopropoxyphenyl group, 3,5-di-isopropoxyphenyl group, ortho-tert-butoxyphenyl group, meta-tert-butoxyphenyl group, p-tert-butoxyphenyl group, 2,3-di-tert-butoxyphenyl group, 2,4-di-tert-butoxyphenyl group, 3,4-di-tert-butoxyphenyl group, 3,5-di-tert butoxyphenyl group, 2-methoxy-3-hydroxyphenyl group, 2-methoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl group, 3-methoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl group, 3-methoxy-5-hydroxyphenyl group, 2-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl group, 2-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl group, 3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl group, 3-hydroxy-5-methoxyphenyl group, 2-ethoxy-3-hydroxyphenyl group, 2-ethoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl group, 3-ethoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl group, 3-ethoxy-5-hydroxyphenyl group, 2-hydroxy-3-ethoxyphenyl group, 2-hydroxy-4-ethoxyphenyl group, 3-hydroxy-4-ethoxyphenyl group, and 3-hydroxy-5-ethoxyphenyl group.

Claim 10 (New): The alkali-soluble silicon-containing polymer according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is at least one of methylene group, ethylene group, n-propylene group, i-propylene group, n-butylene group and i-butylene group.

Claim 11 (New): The alkali-soluble silicon-containing polymer according to Claim 1, wherein R^2 is at least one of methyl group, ethyl group, n-propyl group, i-propyl group, n-butyl group, i-butyl group.

Claim 12 (New): The method according to Claim 3, wherein A^1 is a phenyl group having an alkoxy group.

Claim 13 (New): The alkali-soluble silicon-containing polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer is represented by general formula (1) below and has a weight-average molecular weight in the range from 500 to 500,000:

$$[A^1\text{-}(R^1)_m\text{-}Si\text{-}O_{3/2}]_s[R^2\text{-}\underset{\displaystyle R^2}{\overset{\displaystyle R^2}{Si}}\text{-}O_{1/2}]_t[Si\text{-}O_{4/2}]_u \qquad (1)$$

wherein A^1 is a phenyl group having either a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group; R^1 is an alkylene group of 1-4 carbons; m is 1; R^2 is an alkyl group of 1-4 carbons; R^2 in one molecule is optionally the same type or a combination of two or more different types; each of s and u is a positive number; t is 0 or a positive number; and $0 \leq t/(s+u) \leq 1$; and $0 < u/s \leq 5$[[)]].